

Specification Amendments:

Page 2:

Delete the following paragraph (paragraph 14) beginning at the bottom of page 2:

It is yet a further object of the present invention to provide a hay bale stacker/retriever that has a static bed, having a front end and a rear end; a tilt bed, pivotally mounted at the rear end of the static bed; a hay engagement portion, mounted on the tilt bed, for engaging a hay bale during retrieval; a headache rack, slidably mounted on the static bed, capable of sliding from a first position proximate to the rear end of the static bed to a second position proximate to the front end of the static bed; a hay bale stabilizer disposed on the static bed proximate to the rear end of the static bed to stabilize the hay bale; a first hydraulic ram mounted on the tilt bed to move the hay bale forward to the static bed; a second hydraulic ram mounted on the tilt bed, proximate to the first hydraulic ram, to move the hay bale forward to the static bed; a hydraulic ram mounted on the static bed, connected to the headache rack for sliding the headache rack from the second position to the first position; and a chain, the chain having one end mounted at an end of the hydraulic ram mounted on the static bed and the other end of the chain connected to the headache rack to slide the headache rack from the second position to the first position.

Delete the following paragraph (paragraph 17) beginning at the bottom of page 2:

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, a novel hay bale retriever/stacker is provided. The novel hay bale retriever/stacker

includes a static bed, having a front end and a rear end; a tilt bed, pivotally mounted at the rear end of the static bed; a hay engagement portion, mounted on the tilt bed, for engaging a hay bale during retrieval; a headache rack, slidably mounted on the static bed, capable of sliding from a first position proximate to the rear end of the static bed to a second position proximate to the front end of the static bed; a hay bale stabilizer disposed on the static bed proximate to the rear end of the static bed to stabilize the hay bale; a first hydraulic ram mounted on the tilt bed to move the hay bale forward to the static bed; a second hydraulic ram mounted on the tilt bed, proximate to the first hydraulic ram, to move the hay bale forward to the static bed; a hydraulic ram mounted on the static bed, connected to the headache rack for sliding the headache rack from the second position to the first position; and a chain, the chain having one end mounted at an end of the hydraulic ram mounted on the static bed and the other end of the chain connected to the headache rack to slide the headache rack from the second position to the first position.

Page 3:

Delete the following paragraph from the section labeled "Brief Description of the

Drawings:

FIG. 3A is a top plan view of a static bed of the hay bale retriever/stacker of FIG. 1.

Modify the subsequent paragraph as follows:

FIG. 3B is a side cross section elevation of the static bed of FIGS. 2A and 2B3A.

Modify paragraph 28 beginning at the bottom of page 3 as follows:

Mounted on the static bed 20 is a headache rack 50. The headache rack 50 includes a vertical portion 55 and a horizontal portion 56. The headache rack 50 is slidably mounted upon the static bed 20 such that the headache rack 50 moves from a first position, proximate to the back end 22 of the static bed 20 to a second position, proximate to the front end 21 of the static bed 20. ~~Referring now to FIGS. 3A and 3B, the headache rack 50 and an accompanying system can be seen in more detail. A hydraulic ram 51 is disposed generally axially within the static bed 20 between the first generally rectangular section 23 and the second generally rectangular section 24 of the static bed 20. One end of the hydraulic ram 51 is mounted at the front end 21 of the static bed 20, and a first end of a chain 52 is located at a second end of the hydraulic ram 51. A second end of the chain 52 is attached to the horizontal portion 56 of the headache rack 50. A set of rollers 53 are likewise mounted on the horizontal portion 56 of the headache rack 50 in order to allow the headache rack 50 to slide from the first position to the second position.~~

Modify the subsequent paragraph, paragraph 29, as follows:

Referring now to FIGS. 2A and 2B, ~~thean alternative~~ system for moving the headache rack 50 is shown. A winch 54 is mounted on the static bed 20

proximate to the back end 22 of the static bed 20. Mounted to the winch 54 is one end of a cable 57. The opposite end of the cable 57 is mounted to the headache rack 50.

Page 4:

Amend Paragraph 33 as follows:

Referring again now to FIGS. 1, 2A and 2B, a loading operation will be described. In the first position, the tilt bed 30 is positioned vertically to engage hay bales H, via the hay engagement portion 40. Hay bales H may be engaged by backing the trailer T into the bales using its attached vehicle, so that the hay engagement portion 40 is pushed beneath a bale. Alternatively, the hay bales H may be manually loaded using a device such as a forklift. Once hay bales H are engaged by the engagement portion 40, the tilt bed 30 pivots about the pivot 35 to the second horizontal position. The first hydraulic ram 36 and the second hydraulic ram 37 slide the dolly 41 along the tilt bed 30 in the direction of arrow 'L' from the first position to the second position and onto the dolly static tracks 67 and 68 on the static bed 30. In this manner, the hay bales H are pushed toward engagement with the headache rack 50. As more hay bales H are loaded onto the hay bale retriever/stacker 10, the headache rack 50 is pushed forward by the additional hay bales H toward the front end 21 of the static bed 20. The first hydraulic ram 36 and the second hydraulic ram 37 then slide the dolly 41 in the direction of the arrow 'U' back to the first position. The loading process can then be repeated. In each loading operation, the hay bales H are held in place by the

squeeze bars 61 and 62, while the dolly 41 returns to allow the tilt bed 30 to tilt back to the vertical position to pick up another set of hay bales H.

Amend paragraph 34 as follows:

Referring now to FIGS. 2A, 2B, ~~33A, 3B~~ and 4, ~~an the~~ unloading operation of the hay bale retriever/stacker 10 will now be described. The ~~hydraulic ram 51 drives the chain 52 in the direction of the arrow 'U'. The chain 52, being connected to the headache rack 50, pulls the headache rack 50 in the direction of the arrow 'U' along the rollers 53. To unload hay bales, the winch 54 is turned. As the winch 54 is turned, the cable 57 pulls the headache rack 50 in the direction of the arrow 'U'. As the headache rack 50 slides in the direction of the arrow 'U', any hay bales H are directed toward the back end 22 of the static bed 20, through the stabilizer, and onto the dolly 41 of the hay engagement portion 40 on the tilt bed 30. The hay bales are pushed by the headache rack through the stabilizer sequentially so that when the tilt bed moves to its vertical position, the hay bales are stacked. To unload the hay bales H from the tilt bed 30, the tilt bed 30 pivots about the pivot 35 from the second horizontal position to the first vertical position, and then further tilts downward so that the bales may slide off of the hay engagement portion 40. Alternatively, t~~The hay bales H ~~can~~ may then be manually offloaded from the tilt bed 30 from its vertical position, using a forklift or any other means that is known in the art.

Delete the following paragraph (paragraph 35) beginning towards the bottom of page 4:

Referring again to FIGS. 2A and 2B, an alternative method of unloading the hay bales H will be described. To unload the hay bales H, the winch 54 is turned. As the winch 54 is turned, the cable 57 pulls the headache rack 50 from the second position to the first position along the arrow 'U'. As the headache rack 50 slides from the second position to the first position, the hay bales H are also moved in the direction of the arrow 'U' onto the tilt bed 30 for unloading.